

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196334
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

-----084526 032122Z /15

O 032100Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 9196

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 11860 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LISBON
DATED AUG 02:

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 11860

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, ICEM, UNHCR, AO, PO

SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: LISBON 5557

1. IN CONVERSATION TODAY WITH RANKING UNHCR OFFICIAL
IN GENEVA (PROTECTION DIVISION CHIEF, JAEGER), MISOFF
RAISED SUBJECT OF POTENTIAL REFUGEE RETURNEES TO ANGOLA,
MENTIONING CUNHA'S LOW-LEVEL, INFORMAL APPROACH TO US.
MISOFF INQUIRED WHETHER UNHCR MIGHT HAVE MADE SIMILAR
INQUIRIES TO OTHER POTENTIALLY INTERESTED DONORS, SPECI-
FICALLY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

2. JAEGER REPLIED THAT UNHCR HAD MADE SOME INITIAL
APPROACHES TO UNSPECIFIED WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,
WHICH HAD BEEN RECEIVED WITH SOME INTEREST, BUT NO POSI-
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TIVE RESPONSES THUS FAR. ONE OF HIS ASSOCIATES (VON
ARNIM) INTERJECTED THAT IN AT LEAST TWO CASES, THE U.K.
AND THE NETHERLANDS, UNHCR WAS RETICENT TO APPLY TOO MUCH
PRESSURE, IN VIEW OF THEIR ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBU-
TIONS TO ANGOLAN RELIEF RELATIVE TO THEIR CONTRIBUTORY
CAPACITIES. THEY DID OBSERVE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE

TOWARDS THE REPATRIATION OF ANGOLANS NOW IN ZAMBIA WHO HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND. IT WAS MENTIONED THAT COSTS OF REPATRIATION IN THESE CASES WERE OF A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER ORDER THAN FROM PORTUGAL.

3. JAEGER COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE COSTS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THE PRESENT GROUP ARE OF REASONABLE PROPORTIONS, THEY COULD MOUNT RAPIDLY SHOULD MORE ANGOLAN REFUGEES DECIDE TO RETURN HOME. FOR INSTANCE, SHOULD MOST OF THE 7,000 NOW IN PORTUGAL SO ELECT, COSTS FOR THEIR TRANSPORTATION ALONE WOULD BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$2 MILLION, WHICH MIGHT NECESSITATE A SPECIAL APPEAL. THIS WAS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION, JAEGER CONTINUED, BUT INDICATED THAT THE POSSIBLE REPATRIATION UNDER CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE ONLY THE FIRST ELEMENT OF THE PROBLEM. ASKED DIRECTLY WHETHER UNHCR MIGHT CONSIDER FURTHER APPROACHES TO POTENTIAL WESTERN EUROPEAN DONORS, JAEGER RESPONDED THAT UNHCR WOULD GIVE THIS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

4. AS CONCERNS THE NUMBERS, JAEGER STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ABOUT 1,700 HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR REPATRIATION, WHILE THE PORTUGUESE DESK OFFICER (KOULISCHER) ADDED THAT, OF THIS NUMBER, THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN FORMAL APPROVAL FOR THE RETURN OF 1,008. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL HAS, ON OCCASIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE PAST, BEEN A TACIT ONE, GIVEN THE BLOC, AND THIS COULD AGAIN BE THE CASE WITH THE ANGOLAN RETURNEES.

5. COMMENT: MISSOFF HAD CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT JAEGER, WHO ASKED HIS UNHCR COLLEAGUES TO REMAIN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AFTER THE MEETING, IS GIVING SERIOUS THOUGHT TO POSSIBILITY OF AGAIN APPROACHING EUROPEAN STATES FOR THIS PURPOSE. END COMMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION, REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE196334
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNA:BJSHARP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780318-1045
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808101/aaaadgsw.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 14ca8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LISBON 5557
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1543797
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, AO, PO, UNHCR, ICEM
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/14ca8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014